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United States Patent [19]**Chang**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,214,574**[45] **Date of Patent:** **May 25, 1993**

- [54] **PORTABLE COMPUTER HOUSING IN COMBINATION WITH A PORTABLE COMPUTER**
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- [58] **Field of Search** D3/30.1, 76, 78; D28/84; 190/1, 102, 900, 901; 206/305, 320, 523, 576; 400/685, 691; 312/208.4, 223.2, 223.1; 364/708; 361/380, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 399

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A protective housing for portable computers includes first and second shells defining trays of disparate depths and rear walls of similar height and hingedly connected together. With side and front walls of the first shell defining a minimal height generally not exceeding the height of a CPU/keyboard unit closely confined within the first shell tray, a user has un-impeded access to the keyboard while opening(s) in one or more walls of the first shell overlies access to various drives and/or ports adapted to communicate with external peripheral devices. Higher side and front walls on the second shell define a tray of greater depth and within which is disposed a portable printer having a cable directly communicating with the CPU in the first shell.

16 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets